



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Senator John Cauthorn Awards Golden Goose Egg to Governor Holden

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### *State's Chief Executive Becomes Multi-Egg Winner*

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State Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, today awarded Governor Bob Holden a Golden Goose Egg for recklessly circumventing the General Assembly's budget mandates in a petulant move to keep a "legislative liaison" office open in Washington D.C.

"The governor pulled \$200 million from the money we appropriated for schools in fiscal year 2004. But the nearly quarter of a million dollars needed to run an un-needed beltway listening post – money the General Assembly specifically removed from 2004 budget – he finds by robbing from other agencies such as mental health, social services, higher education and half a dozen other state agencies. If that's concern for our children's education, I'm concerned Governor Holden is concentrating on other things."

Staffed by four people in last year's budget cycle, Missouri's Washington office ate up more than \$175,000 of Missouri taxpayers' money for salaries and operating expenses. Some \$40,000 additional taxpayer dollars are needed each year to pay the office rent.

"Most state lawmakers think it's a little too pricey to run an office to stay in touch with members of Missouri's congressional and senate delegation," Cauthorn said. "For one thing our U.S. senators run their own local offices in Jefferson City – some three blocks from the governor's house. For another thing, there is the power of the telephone..."

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Amid a third year of state revenues lagging behind expenses for state programs and services, Cauthorn and his legislative colleagues struck the D.C. fiscal boondoggle from the 2003-04 budget.

“And yet, Missouri’s money-draining, service duplicating office continues to hum along in the nation’s capitol,” Cauthorn said. “I guess this is the Governor’s idea of working with the legislature to keep our schools open, our teachers paid and our children educated. ‘Bipartisan cooperation’ this is not.”

Cauthorn noted that Holden has laid the groundwork to keep the office open for another four years

“The D.C. office lease runs to 2008,” Cauthorn said. “It is my hope that the Governor stops robbing money from other agencies and pick up the phone to talk with our Congressional Delegation instead of wasting \$250,000 dollars on an unnecessary office.”

Chairman of the Senate’s Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee, Cauthorn began sending Golden Goose Eggs out during the 2003 session for eyebrow-raising instances of state government waste or mismanagement.

“I have one more interesting fact,” Cauthorn said, scanning a leasing report published by the state’s Office of Administration. “Did you know we have office space in Illinois, Texas and New York, too? Me neither, but we do – today anyway.”

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Pictures of Governor’s Office in Washington, DC Available Upon Request  
Please Call 573-751-6858 for details